

# MINUTES

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Neerlandia Public Christian School Council  
Monday, April 30, 2018 @7:30pm

Attending: Lisa Gehring (Principal), Adam Crabbe, Dave Garbutt (Superintendent), Jennifer Tuininga (School Trustee), Juanita Henschel (teacher rep), Randy Strydhorst, Annemiek Elzinga, Charlene Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Janice Wierenga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Steve DeVries, Kim Sybesma (Vice Principal)

## 1. Call to Order

## 2. Devotions

## 3. Adopt Agenda

4. **Review and Approve Minutes**—March 19, 2018—Minutes approved with no changes

5. **Business from Minutes**—No business from Minutes

## 6. Reports

- a. Principal—See attached
- b. School Trustee—See attached

## 7. New Business

a. Superintendent Garbutt—Steve speaks about not being disappointed with new principal, and how it sounds like new principal will be a good fit for our school. States we are unique in that we value our Christian education and requested reasoning for NPCSS being excluded from discussion on hiring. Superintendent speaks to filling new positions, first the administrative positions have to be filled, prior to teacher vacancies. Largely because of ADLC changes they had several open administrative positions at once. The first step is to entertain transfers within the division as the process is shorter and these teachers are a “known” entity. All staff except 5 across the division wanted to transfer to a new position. States that he has worked with Mr. Seatter, knew his interest in coming to Neerlandia, knew he was a good administrator, and also took input from current principal in deciding to transfer Mr Seatter to Neerlandia. Because the transfer was in Pembina Hills there was not the typical interview that would occur with a post and fill type position. Also mentioned that with a post and fill position there is always a risk as the applicants are unknown quality. He also mentioned that if we find Mr Seatter to be a poor fit for the school we are encouraged to communicate this to the Superintendent. Randy mentions that in the past the parent council have had input into hiring. Lisa spoke to Mr. Seatter’s willingness to engage with parents/community and teaching for transformation.

b. ASCA Discussion: Locally Elected School Boards—Trustee Jennifer Tuininga left meeting prior to discussion of this item. Discussion was around what message our board would like to send to the minister of education surrounding school boards. Randy mentions concerns surrounding whether our voice would be heard if boards were centralized, and whether our concerns would be understood. Other concerns include larger schools would get bigger voice. Concerns of smaller schools might be neglected. Steep learning curve if school trustee would not be present. Generally the board is very happy with trustee/school relationship.

c. Council of school Council—May 15, 2018 at 5:30pm—**ACTION—Amanda** will attend same.

## **8. Correspondence**

## **9. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: May 28, 2018 at 7:30 pm**

**Devotions: Charlene Nanninga**

**Closing: Adam Crabbe**

### Student Council Report for April 30, 2018

1. The big event for students this past month was the 30 hour famine. Over 20 students took part under the supervision of Mrs. Strydhorst, Mrs, Wruk and parent volunteers. It was a great success.

### Principal's Report

1. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our school planning day. We spent the morning reviewing the PHPS planning process and revisiting our school vision and belief statements.
2. Thank you also for the wonderful lunch.
3. In the afternoon, the staff reviewed and updated our priorities and strategies. We will be continuing to focus on literacy, numeracy and teaching for transformation which is supportive of our Christian mandate.
4. We also formally announced the retirement of Mrs. Kathi Hellinga and Mr. Jim Bosma. There will be celebrations later this year- stay tuned for updates.
5. It was also announced that I am being transferred into the post of Literacy and Numeracy Coordinator for Pembina Hills, with Mr. Brett Seatter as the incoming principal.
6. Our elementary teachers and Trenton Wierenga attended half-day workshops on the new math assessment (MIPI) which will be used in the fall so that each school will have a snapshot of where their students are at the beginning of the year. This will then give us the data to fine tune our planning based on our own students. This will be used, at the school level, during the data analysis day so that schools can fine-tune the Professional Learning Community plans to support the numeracy priority.
7. Brett is very excited to be coming here and is looking forward working with the staff and students of Neerlandia Public Christian School. He will be attending the

Leadership Cohort for PCCE at Entheos in May, along with myself and Kim Sybesma. This year's retreat is centered around Indigenous Perspectives for Christian Educators.

8. I also attended the PCCE Annual General Meeting on April 22.
9. Last week was Christian Education Week, with a theme of "Cultivating Community." The students had the opportunity to work in cross-grade activities and put on "The Not so Terrible, Parable." It was an amazing evening of music. Thank you to all of the staff members who worked on this performance- especially Mrs. Hellinga and Mrs. Wierenga.
10. Since just before Spring Break, we have picked up 6 new students. There is the possibility that we will receive a seventh one tomorrow. This is very unusual for this school at this time of year.
11. We do know that there will be a couple of students moving or homeschooling next year so the final numbers are hard to project-as usual.

## **School Trustee Report – April 30, 2018**

### **Board adopts Education Plan priorities for 2018-19**

Following consultation at principal planning sessions, the school board voted to keep the 2018-21 Education Plan priorities:

- Diversity of student needs
- Student-teacher relationships
- Numeracy
- Literacy

### **Board allocates \$530,000 to key strategies**

To support the Education Plan priorities, the school board will use \$530,000 from operating reserves. The funding will be used for several initiatives, including:

Two Coordinators: one to advise and support the division's literacy and numeracy strategies, and a coordinator for new teacher supports, and to support PHPS counseling services

Two part-time mentor program assistants to develop and sustain the capacity of support staff who work with classroom teachers and other student services staff

Creating a pool of release time for staff to support them in implementing the division's priorities. For example, a teacher may be released to collaborate with other teachers and division specialists to design instruction for individual students.

### **Board allots resources to schools**

Each year school divisions receive funding from the province, and the school board must determine how that money is distributed to schools by an allocation formula. The school board adopted the 2018-19 allocation formula for schools, which includes things like:

- an allocation of time for principals and associate principals to lead and manage their schools

- an equalization amount, intended to help balance funding for things that are outside the control of the school (i.e. school size; circumstance)
- additional funding for students with higher needs
- a per student amount

### **Busby School to offer Early Learning Program**

The school board approved the establishment of an Early Learning Program at Busby School beginning this fall. PHPS currently offers Early Learning Programs at: Dunstable School, Barrhead Elementary, Westlock Elementary, Eleanor Hall and Pembina North Community School.

### **Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC)**

Pembina Hills Public Schools has governed the operations of ADLC since its divestiture from the province of Alberta in June of 1997. Alberta Education has a service agreement with Pembina Hills Public Schools to provide distance education services to students through ADLC. ADLC serves school authorities across the province, providing student instruction where requested and sharing resources at no cost to authorities who request them.

Following eight months of discussions between Alberta Education and Pembina Hills Public Schools, the Board of Trustees approved the amendment to Schedule C of the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) Service Agreement at a special meeting held April 18, 2018. The amendment will secure funding for ADLC operations for a further 2 years – to August 31, 2020.

As we transition and rebuild ADLC with Barrhead as the centre of operations, the Board and administration will work closely with Alberta Education to follow the service agreement terms.

### **Teacher Stabilization Plan and Early Retirement Incentive Plan**

The Board of Trustees approved a teacher stabilization plan on a temporary basis that will assist in providing a range of age and teaching experience within our schools, in addition to re-aligning the work locations to Barrhead for ADLC and Edmonton/Calgary for Vista Virtual School. It is a voluntary program which enables those teachers who wish to retire the opportunity to do so.

The Board of Trustees also recognized the need to reduce support staff in the Alberta Distance Learning Centre (ADLC) and Regional Office (RO) given the transitions of locations and operational efficiencies. This is being done through a five step process that includes a targeted Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) that offers financial support to identified support staff who are prepared to depart from employment on a voluntary basis.

### **Transportation — Did you know...?**

Transportation Director Shantelle Haitel provided some interesting facts in her annual *Transportation Assurance Report*:

PHPS transports 2,642 students on 70 bus routes — 2,279 of these students go to PHPS schools; the remaining are transported to St. Mary School in Westlock and the Covenant Canadian Reformed School in Neerlandia

- Cameras and GPS units are installed on all buses
- Buses travel 10,173 kilometres per day. That's like going around the earth every 4 days!
- The average distance between a student's home and their school is 17.08 kms

- The average morning pick up time for our students is 7:56 am
- 11.8% of our students have a one-way bus ride of over an hour
- The average amount of time that students ride our buses one way is 34 minutes — the same as the provincial average

### **Student Transportation Survey – Voice your opinion!**

Alberta Education has initiated an online survey on student transportation. The survey and written submissions will help determine the potential changes to the distance criteria, mandated service levels and any safety considerations that may be added.

The survey will close on June 15, 2018. Changes are scheduled to be finalized by fall 2018.

Follow me on Facebook or Twitter!  
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## MINUTES

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Neerlandia Christian Education Society

Monday, April 30, 2018 @ 9:00pm

Attending: Lisa Gehring (Principal), Adam Crabbe, Juanita Henschel (teacher rep), Randy Strydhorst, Annemiek Elzinga, Charlene Nanninga, Amanda Batty, Janice Wierenga, Lee Anne Schmidt, Steve DeVries, Kim Sybesma (Vice Principal)

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Adopt Agenda**

### **3. Review and Approve Minutes—March 19, 2018**

### **4. Business from Minutes**

a. PHSSAM concession—Kim wanted suggestions for bands—currently the bands they use are 89cents per band which adds up quite quickly. Wondering if swimming pool type bands would work. Suggestion made to see if attachments could be attached to ONE band and then reduce costs that way. Kim estimated that approx. 350 people will be attending PHSSAM depending on how many schools decide to come in the end. Event is June 7th, rain or shine. **ACTION—Annemiek** will ask Aaron from FreesOn Bros if we could use their large BBQ. **ACTION—Randy and Jeff Schmidt** willing to cook burgers/hotdogs provided they aren't still seeding. **ACTION—Charlene and Annemiek** have large roasters to keep food warm. **ACTION—Lee Anne and Randy** have quiet generators. Determined we could use the school for water for water bottles etc. PHSSAM committee is Janice, Charlene, Amanda, Lee Anne and Annemiek.

b. Open House—Juanita reported a lot of new parents/students chose not to attend. Amanda stated that the ad that NCES pays for (approx \$600) might not be worth having in future as very few parents attended open house. Steve suggested in future having board member designated for social media.

c. Community Building Incentive—Annemiek presented the winners (grade 1 (won \$200 and 2 (won \$50)) at morning assembly. **ACTION—Annemiek** willing to hand out ice cream at lunch. **ACTION—Charlene** will pick up from Coop and bring to school. Student council can assist with handing out. **ACTION—Steve** will handle getting cheque to each winning class.

d. PCCE AGM—Janice and Lisa attended and stated they found it very beneficial and learned a lot. Lisa reports that they had a unique way of doing a reading. Bill 24 was also discussed and how this bill is taking away parental rights. Gayle Monsma is putting together a package regarding Bill 24 discussing where the court case is at. They are also in the process of developing a playbook for different job titles which is more flexible and fluid then typical roles. PCCE has training days about TFT (teaching for transformation) and encourages the board to sent any new staff at our school to the training days.

## 5. Reports

a. Financial—Randy reports. Several minor questions resolved. Suggestions of ways to increase NCES fees—At pancake breakfast have table set up and people can pay right at table. Also could have packages and forms to people, and have checklist to mail to people that don't take package.

b. Preschool Report—Charlene and Annemiek report that they had end of year review with preschool teacher. They reported that she stated that she felt supported by NCES. She mentioned that licensing needs to be renewed in Spring 2019 and that her first aide needs to be updated which she is working on. Jill mentioned that NCES could have Pembina Hills take over preschool if we felt we didn't want to run it anymore. She was asked if the wage was fair, and she said she is fine with wage, but has noticed that teachers aide that was hired for class is making very similar wage. Jill had provided a chart for the various costs associated with running the program dependent on how many students we have attend. **ACTION—Amanda** will contact the families of Brady Wierenga and Ian Nanninga to see if they intend to register them, so we can make a more accurate assessment of the costs of the program.

c. Outdoor Classroom—Annemiek reports that a down payment has been made on the outdoor furniture and that she is waiting for it to ship. Currently she is working on getting trees which she states is much more difficult then anticipated.

## 6. New Business

### a. Transportation Fees from PHPS

i—Steve reports that fees will be the same as last year (\$450), and that last year we subsidized bussing \$150 per child. Annemiek motions to subsidize \$150 of the fees if they pay full fees. Lee Anne seconds. Discussion follows. The cost will be approx \$10,650 which is more then we had budgeted for this item. Approx 50% of students are out of boundary as the school has done a lot of work to encourage new families to attend. Some members feel it is important to support these families, as the keep the school viable. Concerns about being over budget and that many of these families subsidized do not pay NCES fees. It is determined NCES can access money from a reserve account to cover loss. Motion is carried. **ACTION—Steve** will send out letter informing out of boundary families. **ACTION—Charlene** will handle refunds that come in with receipt.

### ii. Special Agreements—Tabled

b. Grad Bibles— **ACTION—Lee Anne** will talk to Heidi about where to order Bibles and order and get engraved

c. Awards—Leader of the Band Award, Art/Drama— **ACTION—Steve** will talk to Kathi re:same

d. Teacher Farewell—Juanita reports—On June 19th there is a farewell assembly planned for the school. Departing teachers can hand out freezies to kids. June 21 or 22 is planned for dessert evening—group of girls performing a song, Mr Bisms. Marian thinking about doing scrapbooks. Gifts —Still in brainstorming phase—MEC gift card? Plants? Helena Olthuis is going to be contacted about making a wooden sign for farewell. Anticipated that NCES can help by bringing desserts. NCES would appreciate opportunity to speak.

e. Community Giving—tabled

**7. Correspondence-** None received

**8. Closing—**Lisa Gehring

**9. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting: May 28, 2018 at 9:00pm**

**Devotions: Charlene Nanninga**

**Closing: Adam Crabbe**